

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet(s) include changes to Figure(s) 2. In Figure 2, controller 130 has been amended to illustrate input module 231, comparator 232, and signal generator 233. Support for these elements can be found in the specification, in particular in paragraph 0024. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in substantially the same order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-29, 31-37 and 39-66 are pending. Claims 2, 5, 11, 13-15, 17, 23, 28, 33, 39, 51, 55, 57, and 61-64 are currently amended to more clearly define pre-existing claim limitations. Claims 40 and 60 are canceled. No claims are added. No new matter has been added.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-29, 31-37, 39-59, 65, and 66 are allowed.

Claims 5 and 14-15 stand objected to because of informalities.

Claims 60 and 62-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,820,553 to Hughes (hereinafter "Hughes")

Response to Objections

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) because the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Office Action states that the "external device" as claimed in claim 11; "means for detecting" as claimed in claim 13; "means for deactivating" as claimed in claim 15; "an input module," "a comparator," "a signal generator" as claimed in claim 31; "a radiosurgical treatment apparatus," "an imaging system," "a robot" as claimed in claim 32; "an x-ray source," "articulated arm," "robot-based frameless stereotactic radiosurgery system" as claimed in claim 39; "gantry-based system" as claimed in claim 40 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). Applicant respectfully submits that Figure 2 has been amended to include an input module 231, comparator 232, and signal generator 233. Support for these elements can be found in paragraphs 0024 and 0025 of the

specification. Amendments to the specification have also been amended to include reference numbers for those elements.

Regarding “an external device,” Figure 2 illustrates actuators 160, which represents one embodiment for moving the table, in accordance with directions from the controller 130. External devices, such as a robot, may also be used for moving the table, in accordance with directions from the controller 130 via motion command signal. Accordingly, Figure 2 illustrates the external device. Support for this element can be found in paragraphs 0029 to 0031 of the specification.

Regarding “means for detecting,” Figure 2 illustrates a controller. The controller may include means for detecting handling errors or software control of the table. The support for this element can be found in paragraph 0032 of the specification.

Regarding “means for deactivating,” Figure 2 illustrates a controller. The controller may include means for deactivating the imaging system so as to prevent any further images from being acquired. The support for this element can be found in paragraph 0056.

Regarding “radiosurgical treatment apparatus,” Figure 1 illustrates a radiosurgical treatment apparatus 10, which may include a robot having an articulated arm assembly 13, an x-ray source 14 mounted at one end of the arm assembly 13, and an imaging system (17 and 21). Support for this element may be found throughout the specification, but in particular, paragraphs 0007, 0015 to 0018.

Regarding “an imaging system,” Figure 1 illustrates an imaging system that may include a pair of diagnostic x-ray sources 17, and a pair of x-ray image detectors (or cameras) 21, each detector located opposite an associated one of the x-ray sources 17. Support for this element may be found in paragraph 0016 of the specification.

Regarding “a robot,” as previously described with respect to “radiosurgical treatment apparatus, Figure 1 illustrates a robot 12.

Regarding “an x-ray source,” as previously described with respect to “radiosurgical treatment apparatus, Figure 1 illustrates an x-ray source 14.

Regarding “articulated arm,” as previously described with respect to “radiosurgical treatment apparatus, Figure 1 illustrates an articulated arm 13.

Regarding “robot-based frameless stereotactic radiosurgery system,” Figure 1 illustrates radiosurgery system 10, which includes a robot 12.

In sum, for the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 5 and 14-15 stands objected to because of informalities. In particular, the Office Action states that Claims 5 and 14-15 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 5 at line 1, delete “4”. In claim 14 at line 1, “said one or more errors”, at line 3, “said sensor”, at line 4 “said actuator” and at line 6 “said corrective motions” lack proper antecedent basis. In claim 15 at line 1, said means for correcting”, at line 3, “said imaging system”, at line 6, “the error correction process” lack proper antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 and 14-15 have been amended correct for informalities, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s recommendation and respectfully requests that the objection to claims 5 and 14-15 be withdrawn.

Response to Objections

The Office Action objected claim 61 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 61 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 60, accordingly claim 61 is in condition for allowance.

Given that claims 62-64 depend from independent claim 61, which is allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 62-64 are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

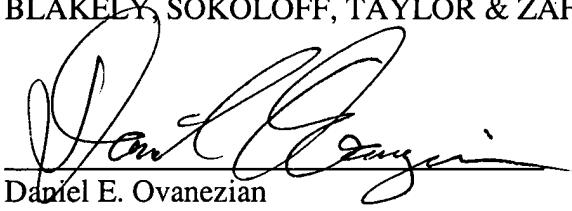
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Daniel Ovanezian at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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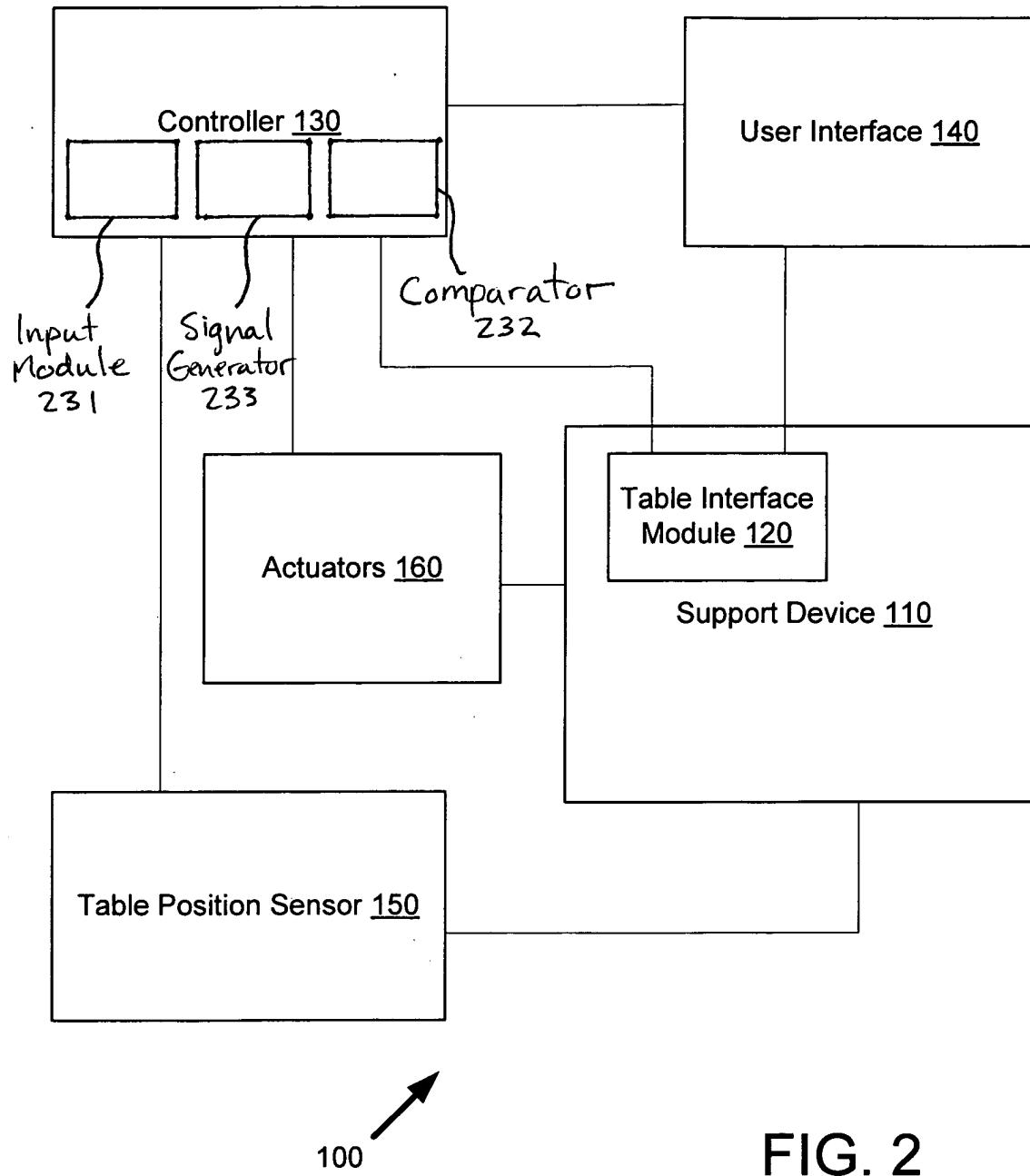


FIG. 2